

Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota

Office of the Governor

Whereas, Thousands of brave Americans have demonstrated their courage and commitment to freedom by serving the armed forces of the United States of America in active duty posts in Afghanistan, Iraq and around the world; and,

Whereas, More than 40 percent of these soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines have left families with children behind; and,

Whereas, More than one million of America's children have at least one parent currently serving active military duty; and,

Whereas, These children are a source of pride and honor to us all, and it is only fitting that we take time to recognize their contributions, celebrate their spirit, and let our men and women in uniform know that, while they are taking care of us, we are taking care of their children; and,

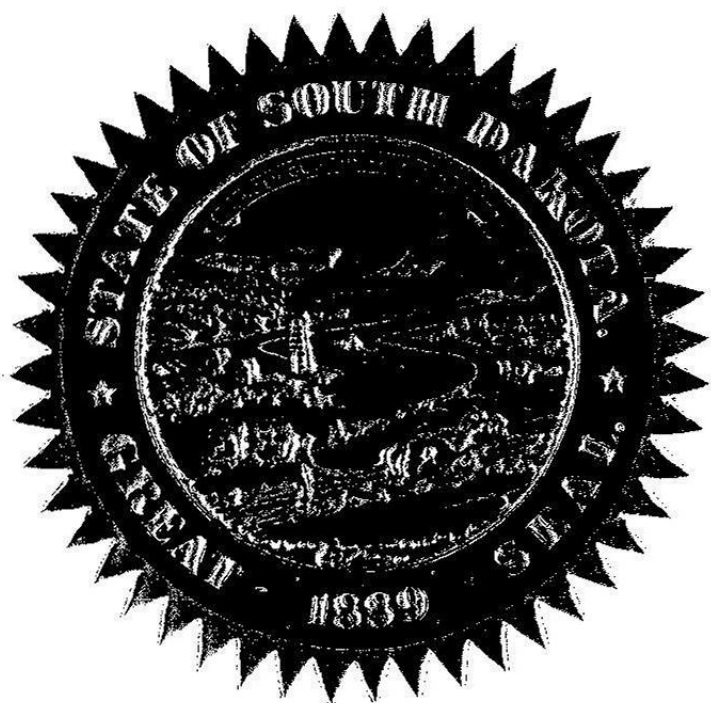
Whereas, The recognition of a Month of the Military Child will allow us to pay tribute to military children for their commitment, their struggles and their unconditional support of our troops – because when parents serve in the military, their Kids Serve Too; and,

Whereas, A month-long salute to military children will encourage support for Kids Serve Too and other organizations and campaigns established to provide direct support to military children and families:

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim April 2005, as

MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

in South Dakota, and I urge all citizens, business and government leaders to observe the month with appropriate ceremonies and activities that honor, support and thank military children.



In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Thirty-first Day of March in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Five.

M. Michael Rounds

M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

Ch. Nelson

Chris Nelson, Secretary of State